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History of the British Empire. By C. S. S. Higham, M. A. of the University of Manchester. Pp. vii+276, 15 maps. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1921.

While an outline of the British Empire's origin and growth would seem an impossible task in so slight a volume, Mr. Higham has written a splendid manual, astonishingly complete, crowded with facts, interesting in themselves rather than in the telling. A mere reading of the volume will not suffice, one must take copious notes to realize how replete it is with information and suggestion. The England of Henry VII, insular and rural, with only the beginnings of a navy, becomes the huge British Empire of today, unbounded in extent and wealth, controlling a full fourth of the world's inhabitants. One sees the gradual, haphazard, unconscious growth through exploration, seizure, colonization, wars, and trade extension. One notes even more the unpremeditated yet natural development of a definite policy of empire in the course of three centuries. This is apparently the intent of the author's general survey.

An introductory section dealing with the beginnings of the Empire up to 1763, describes with sufficient detail the naval extension by Henry VII and his immediate successors, the explorations of the Cabots, the exploring raids of the sea-dogs, Hawkins, Drake, and Raleigh, the foundation of the monopolistic Russian, Muscovy, Levant, and East Indian trading companies, the organization of the Royal African Company for the slave trade, and the establishment of plantations and colonies in the New World. The struggle with Holland and later with France is emphasized, with its resultant English supremacy in India as well as in North America. A distinct advantage of Mr. Higham's account is the attention given to the West Indian plantations, the Leeward and Windward Isles, Old Providence, Jamaica, and the Barbadoes, which are too frequently ignored by American students. Again there is considered the influence of the English merchants in forcing a colonial policy, and the organization of various councils and boards of trade and plantations to supervise colonial affairs.

Relative to English buccaneering on the Spanish Main, there is the interesting suggestion that "the Reformation gave a religious excuse to the growing desire for plundering the wealth of Spain." Again, among the reasons for colonization, the

author does not "forget the influence of the missionary ideas of the time, for though they produced little real missionary effort, men always felt that they had a duty to take Christianity to the natives, and this motive for colonization is repeated in the various charters of the day" (p. 11). Little in sympathy with New England Puritanism, he restated the oft-repeated truth: "Though the Puritans of Massachusetts had emigrated for religious freedom, such freedom was only meant for those who saw eye-to-eye with them in religious matters. Toleration was thought mere weakness, and the right of citizenship was soon restricted to those who were church members. Any one who disagreed with their religious ideas was quickly bundled out of the colony and went off to found new settlements of their own; the Quakers especially received most ferocious treatment, being whipped and tortured for their religious beliefs" (p. 17).

Considerable space is given to the East India Company as a trading organization—its extension of English influence in India, its great governors Robert Clive, Warren Hastings, Wellesley, Dalhousie—and finally as an imperial power governing the disrupted Mogul empire.¹ The story of British seizure of India is one of self-protection, to conserve English trade, or to aid ward-nations of Hindus! The extinction of the Company as a trading monopoly and finally as a governing power came with the end of the Sepoy Rebellion, when India was incorporated in the empire, ruled by local governors, a viceroy, and a Secretary for India with a Cabinet seat.

In a short chapter, Mr. Higham recounts in a judicial tone the causes of the Revolution and the loss of the Thirteen Colonies. Colonies became unpopular, men believing with Tingo that, like fruit, they would drop off when ripe. Hence England displayed little interest in the thirty-five thousand loyalists, immigrants who were to make the nucleus of Nova Scotia and Ontario and sow seeds of hatred between Canada and the United States. Then came the Great French War (1793-1815), which resulted in an English monopoly of sea-power and an accumulation of territories and ceded islands, annexations in India, penal colonies founded in Australia, the acquisition of the Cape, interest in Egypt, possession of Tobago, Trinidad, British Honduras, and Guiana, Mauritius, Ceylon, Malay Straits settlements, Malta, and lesser strategic points. England had become an empire.

A renewed interest in colonies was destined to bring about a new colonial policy.

This new colonial policy was marked by the abolition of the slave trade and finally the compensated emancipation of slavery, the repeal of the Corn Laws, and the destruction of the last vestiges of the old mercantillist theories of colonial administration. The Canadian revolt of 1837, Lord Durham's report, the Quebec Conference of 1864, the North America Act of 1867, the provincial parliaments with responsible government, the Canadian purchase in 1869 of the governing rights of the Hudson Bay Company, the absorption of Manitoba, westward extension, railroad building, tariffs and reciprocity, and party life, are topics which depict the rise of dominion self-government and Canadian expansion. Valuable chapters outline the origin, material and constitutional growth of the self-governing dominions of South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, with an interesting consideration of imperial confederation affairs in the way of colonial high tariffs with British preferential provisions, naval subsidies, frequent imperial conferences, voluntary colonial support of the mother country in the Boer and Great Wars, the dominion premiers in the war cabinet, and the dominions at Versailles and in the Court of the League of Nations. Over against confederation influences, the author is inclined to see a lessening of nationalistic strength in the dominions. Other chapters describe England in Egypt since the construction of the Suez Canal, and England's mighty possessions throughout the world in the way of protectorates, mandate territories, favored trade zones, fortresses, islands, coaling and cable stations.

An occasional error in detail is to be overlooked in such a work. However, rather more than three or four titles would be welcomed in the bibliographical note at the end of each chapter, as well as a wider selection of authors non-resident in England. Of Ireland nothing is said, Ireland since the Union being considered as a legal partner in the empire-governing British Isles, just as Scotland or England itself. It is an extremely serviceable volume for a student of English history or for the general reader who would understand English backgrounds with a desire to appreciate present policies.

R. J. P.